Library

The Manor House,
Totnes.

13th October, 1954.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1953.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Estimated Population (mid-year 1953)	5,516
Number of inhabitated houses	1,785

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Male	Female	Total
Live Births	38	43	81
Legitimate	37	39	
Illegitimate	1	4	
Still Births	2	1	3

Birth rate per 1,000 population 14.7

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths	61	73	134

		England and Wales
Death rate per 1,000 population	24.3	11.4

Death rate per 1,000 population after allowance has been made for transfer of deaths of long-term patients in hospitals 14.7

Deaths from maternal causes Nil

Deaths of infants under 1 year 3

The Classification of deaths is as follows:-

Tuberculosis	1
Acuts Poliomyelitis.....	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases.....	1
Malignant Neoplasms	17
Cerebral Haemorrhage	22
Heart and Coronary disease	33
Other circulatory diseases	8
Pneumonia	4
Bronchitis	3
Nephritis	1
Prostative Hyperplasia	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1
Other defined and ill defined diseases.....	37
Accidents (other than motor vehicle)	2
Suicides	2

The age group 65 and over accounts for 53 deaths out of a total of 81.

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The classification of the above is as follows:-

Tuberculosis	2	(Pulmonary ..... 2) (Non-pulmonary ..... 0)
Scarlet Fever	2	
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	
Measles	45	
Whooping cough	4	
Acute anterior Poliomyelitis.....	1	
Total	57	

INFANTILE PARALYSIS

One case only was notified during the year. It occurred in a young married woman. The infection was of a severe nature and proved fatal in a short time. The source of infection was not traced and fortunately none of the close contacts was affected.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The situation with regard to tuberculosis remains satisfactory. The modern treatments, both hospital and domiciliary, are proving of immense value and great strides are being made in the control of this infections. I feel quite sure that the provision of well-lit and well ventilated houses, and the slow but steady education of the public in matters of hygiene will all help to combat tuberculosis and many other serious infections.

It is gratifying to be able to record that no case of bovine tuberculosis has been notified during the year and this must show that something real is being done to ensure a safe milk supply. I would like to think that this is due to the increased production and consumption of tuberculin tested milk. Efficient pasteurisation and regular sampling such as we have are undoubtedly of prime importance but the ultimate aim must surely be milk from tubercle-free animals. I know that you are ever mindful of this and have demonstrated your interest in attestation by the new arrangements being made for sales of attested cattle in your market.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

No change has been made in the arrangements for the immunisation of the children. The general practioners and school medical officers make this service available. Health Visitors do much good work by checking up. I would like to thank all those mothers who have been so conscientious in bringing the children for immunisation and so taking their share of the responsibility - the result is almost 100% of children are immunised before reaching the age of twelve months.

VACCINATION.

Out figures for vaccination still compare favourably with those of surrounding areas, but there is a danger that this most excellent practice, which has saved the lives of so many in the past, may be forgotten unless constant reminders are given to parents of the ever-pressing need to take advantage of such a well-tried means of immunisation, viz. vaccination. The general practitioners and the medical staff of the Welfare Clinic are thoughtful of the situation and are responsible for the relatively good figures we now have.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

The provision of Hospital Accommodation is as follows:-

Totnes and District Hospital for acute cases,
24 available beds (including five cots.

Broomborough Hospital for chronic cases		- 135 beds
-do-	National Assistance Part III accommodation for residential cases only	- 43
-do-	Maternity Wing	- 13 beds 12 cots.

These Hospitals supply the necessary hospital accommodation for the Borough and a large surrounding district. There has been no increase in the number of beds available but many alterations have been made to improve facilities within the hospitals. The addition of a small physiotherapy unit to the Totnes and District Hospital has satisfied a great need and the new equipment has made it possible to widen the scope of the available treatment.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Maternity Wing of Broomborough Hospital with its 13 beds provides accommodation for maternity cases from this area and the surrounding district. It is a highly efficient and busy organisation which dealt with over 200 cases during the year. Our improved housing situation has made domiciliary midwifery more possible and expectant mothers are encouraged to have their confinements at home if circumstances permit.

NURSING.

The town is divided into two districts, each district having its own nurse. Owing to the increased use of anti-biotics and the improved transport, our nurses have more available time; they have, therefore, been allotted a country district in addition to the town.

AMBULANCE

The Ambulance Service provides two ambulances with drivers and also attendants where necessary. This is quite ample and we have reason to be grateful for this round the clock service of great despatch and efficiency.

HOME HELPS.

Our Home Help Service, small though it is, still carries on. It has been engaged in providing help in cases of chronic illness, old age, maternity, etc. For the present it does not appear to be necessary to develop this service further.

WATER SUPPLY.

During the past year a constant and ample water supply was in being and bacteriological samples of all the supplies showed excellent results.

CATERING AND FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS.

These have been inspected periodically and there are no cases which need be brought forward to your notice.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Frequent inspections have been made under this heading

and the usual condemnation notes provided and the food seized where necessary.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

These have been inspected periodically and the usual notices have been served where trouble has arisen, under the public Health Acts.

HOUSING.

The Corporation is still proceeding with its housing programme, and 22 traditional three-bedroomed types are in course of erection at Pathfidds. These should be completed by August ~~next~~. 1954.

The Corporation is considering a further scheme for 17 traditional houses and 13 traditional bungalows on the Farwell Estate. The bungalows are of the one-bedroom type for the accommodation of old people.

(Signed) E. Davies.

Medical Officer of Health.